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April 7, 2017

Hon. Valerie Stanfill  
Maine District Court  
18 Colby Street  
Waterville, Maine 04901

Re: *State of Maine v. Matthew D. Perry*, Docket No. VI-17-20053

Dear Judge Stanfill:

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry ("DACF") to express its interests in this case. DACF's Animal Welfare Program ("AWP") plays a unique and important role in enforcing Maine's Animal Welfare laws. Because of the broad public interest in this case and the possible implications it may have on the work of the AWP, DACF wishes to stress the following points:

1. DACF seeks to ensure that animal owners are afforded due process and a fair chance to defend themselves and their animals;
2. The purpose of the animal welfare laws is to safeguard the humane and proper treatment of animals. DACF has a strong interest in holding the original owner(s) responsible and ensuring that animals do not suffer due to owner neglect;
3. The intent of the dangerous dog statute is to protect the public by deterring owners of dangerous dogs from letting them loose. It is not intended as a punishment for a dog, in this case Dakota; and
4. Dakota is less of a public safety risk given the reliability of the SAFER behavioral testing conducted on Dakota by the Waterville Area Humane Society.

DACF is ready and willing to provide additional information to assist the Court with its consideration of this case, as the Court determines appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Randlett".

Mark A. Randlett  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner, DACF  
Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney